

# SPARTAN DAILY

VOLUME 123, NUMBER 58

WWW.THESPARTANDAILY.COM

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2004



Victor Guizar, a resident of San Jose, gets a shot to numb his upper neck in order to have a laser treatment to remove his gang-related tattoo on Tuesday at the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center.

Photos by Tomomi Tsuda / Daily Staff

## Opinions vary on MySJSU

Registration for Spring semester began Nov. 10

By Kenneth Seli  
Daily Staff Writer

Student opinions of the San Jose State University computerized registration system remain varied.

The priority registration period to add classes for the Spring 2005 semester began Nov. 10.

MySJSU, which is the registration and records system program from PeopleSoft used by the university, has been available for students to use since the Fall 2003 semester.

Some students say that the system is quick and easy to use.

Matt Fore, who is a student in the public administration master's program, said though he is new to the system, it has given him no problems.

"It's been really smooth," Fore said. "I just finished registering for classes (in four minutes)."

Tony Seekao, a senior mechanical engineering major, said that MySJSU's user interface is simple to understand, but that he misses the postal notifications from older SJSU registration systems.

"It was pretty much self-explanatory," Seekao said. "The one thing people would like better is if they notify people on how much they owe."

Twinkl Mistry, who works at the Common Management Systems help desk, which is placed to handle complaints and problems regarding the MySJSU Web site, said the system sends out notification on proper use of the registration program.

"We have a standard e-mail that resolves (many) problems and educates (students about how) to use the MySJSU system," Mistry said.

Christine Virata, a senior majoring in computer engineering, said she uses the e-mail system to track the progress of the system.

"I actually subscribe to their notifications and there have been quite a lot of alerts of the system being down," Virata said. "I don't know if they are doing maintenance or if the system is down (for other reasons)."

Mistry said the MySJSU system has been implementing new features such as the Degree Progress Report, which is meant to track the requirements a student needs to fulfill in order to graduate.

Still, many other students are not satisfied with the use of the program to add classes onto their schedules.

Myesha Compton, a senior double majoring in behavioral science and sociology, said she repeatedly attempted to sign up for classes only to get refused many times over.

"I accessed it through the library and it booted me off four to five times," Compton said. "It took me about an hour, and it's not user-friendly."

Mistry said many people have problems with the system because of subtle changes in the way a user may enter his or her login information.

"What happens is students change their passwords and (the system) is case sensitive," Mistry said. "A small percentage of students forget their passwords."

MySJSU usually blocks students from logging in after the third or fourth time, Mistry said, because the system employs a security measure to block hackers from accessing personal student information such as grades and records.

David W. Morris, a software systems architect who said he has worked in the computer industry for 35 years, said the problems with the system are more severe than many people realize.

"I found (MySJSU) to be appalling and disgusting, especially for a state university (to use)," Morris said.

Morris, whose wife is a master's student in nutrition and food science, said error codes that popped up when his wife attempted to sign up for classes made little sense.

"You do what the error message said and (another) error message came up."

## Program offers 'clean slate'

San Jose residents take advantage of free removal of gang-related tattoos

By Ling-Mei Wong  
Daily Staff Writer



Guizar has gang-related tattoos on his fingers removed on Tuesday at the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center. He said this was his fifth or sixth treatment.

With tattoos on the back of his head, behind his ears and above his eyebrow, Victor Guizar looks the part of a gang member.

The San Jose resident was part of the Sureños, a gang whose name meant "Southerners" of Mexico.

Not any more. "I work, stay out of trouble," Guizar said.

Guizar stepped into the "Tattoo Removal" room at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center last Tuesday to remove his gang-related tattoos after graduating from the Clean Slate program in January.

The Clean Slate program was formed in 1994 by former Mayor Susan Hammer. An agreement between the city of San Jose and Valley Medical Center was signed so treatments would be free. One treatment can cost \$200 to \$300 and needs to be performed five to six times to completely remove the tattoo, said Juan Avila, Clean Slate supervisor.

A laser penetrates the skin cells harmlessly while breaking up the pigments of the tattoo ink, said Jack Ackerman, a doctor of internal medicine who performs the treatments.

It can cause swelling and feels like "hot bacon grease" against the skin, Avila said. Local anesthetic, like a shot of Lidocaine, is available, Ackerman said. The clients leave the clinic with a kind word such as, "You're doing great" from Sherry Shand, one of the nurses with the program. Shand applies a soothing gel over the treated area and then covers it with bandages.

"Every time I leave, people ask if I got beat up," Guizar said.

Former gang members with gang-related tattoos are admitted into the program, Avila said. They must be San Jose residents between 14 to 25 years old, live a gang-free lifestyle, perform 40 hours of community service and have visible tattoos on the face, neck or hands.

Gang tattoos can be deadly, said Charlie Hall, a youth outreach worker for Clean Slate. A former client went through the program, had his tattoos removed and was shot by a rival gang member who recognized him.

Gang-related tattoos that are not on visible places on the body can be removed as well, Avila said. If names of former partners are tattooed on

the individuals and they are no longer with that partner, those tattoos can also be removed.

Tattoos are removed after the clients go through a six-month session of meetings every other Wednesday. The current cycle of 29 clients will graduate on Dec. 15.

The meetings include seminars on domestic violence and pairing up former members of rival gangs. For example, a Sureño and a Norteño, the "Southerners" and "Northerners," would be paired to show that they did not need to fear their former rivals, Guizar said.

William Diaz, a resident of San Jose, was a member of the Norteños. He said he got his first tattoo, a pair of praying hands, on his chest when he was 12.

"I was one of the first kids on my block to get that," he said.

Diaz was incarcerated several times for charges including domestic violence, fighting and gang activity. After having his arms broken the last time he was in jail, Diaz decided to "turn his life around," he said. He has been clean and sober for two years. Diaz is now about 250

see TATTOOS, page 4

## Modest Indian role models share stories

By Ling-Mei Wong  
Daily Staff Writer

Indian culture is not about individuals. Yet three individuals from San Jose State University represent its culture through community service and academic excellence.

All three individuals said they were not role models, but have their own stories to tell.

### Student activism from independent Indian

Organizing a relief drive while juggling 15 units and not having a driver's license was no easy task for Shruthi Reddy, a sophomore system physiology, or pre-med, major.

The petite 18-year-old organized the Hurricane Ivan Relief Drive last month, sending clothes, medicine and blankets to victims in Granada. In order to send the clothes, she said she needed to write letters, fill out forms and call many people.

"People ask me if I'm doing this for med school applications, and it's like, 'No!'" Reddy said.

There were easier options for Reddy to rack up community service hours, but she said that she wanted to do something different.

"I want to make a difference in people's lives," she said.

Along with her community service, she tutors chemistry and is conducting a chemistry workshop this semester. For the workshop, Reddy said she makes

worksheets for the students.

Her classes include organic chemistry, biology and physics, which she said keeps her busy.

"I'm stretching myself thin," she said.

Reddy said that she was inspired to have the relief drive after helping her sister Samatha Reddy send two shipping containers of clothes to Calcutta, India last year.

"My individualistic approach comes from following my sister's footsteps," Reddy said. "She brings out the best in me."

She said that she felt she made a difference in the lives of some of the poorest people in India.

"You should have seen the joy on their faces," Reddy said, referring to

pictures of the clothing distribution taken in India.

Reddy feels a debt of gratitude to her homeland, as she identifies herself as an Indian. She and her family immigrated to America in 1998 when she was 12 years old, Reddy said.

"I'm Indian in the sense that I eat Indian food, enjoy Bollywood movies and music, and keep up with latest news in India," Reddy said. "But most importantly I stay true to my Indian values and ideals in terms of ethics, discipline and modesty."

She said she cheers for India when India plays against Pakistan in cricket matches.

"It's so exciting and they play really

see INDIANS, page 4



Karin Higgins / Daily Photo Editor

Dr. Manjari Ohala has taught in the English and linguistics departments at San Jose State University since 1974. Ohala wears traditional Indian attire every day to show pride in her culture.

EXPLETIVE DELETED

# 'All work and no play' is bad for America's children

Just as architects enjoy driving by one of their buildings or sculptors enjoy having pieces of their art in their homes, I enjoy seeing my work inside the pages of a newspaper.

It may sound somewhat narcissistic to say, but I don't think anyone who works to produce something for the masses would disagree that it's nice to be able to admire what one has created.

That is why when this issue of the Spartan Daily hit newsstands this morning, I was upset that I was unable to see the final product.

I was unable to see the final product because when the paper hit the newsstands just before 6 a.m., I was calmly sitting at a blackjack table inside of one of Reno's many casinos.

Just when the cart pulled up to the newsstand, I was lightly scratching my cards on the familiar green felt table, hoping I would get lucky and see a seven.

At the same time, I was in the middle of my ninth free Michélob while a lit cigarette hung out of the left side of my mouth.

(It's Reno for God's sake — they let you smoke inside. It doesn't even matter if you're a regular smoker or not, you just have to be because they let you.)

OK, let's get back to the point.

The point is that while you are in San Jose, either on your way to work or school, I will have been in Reno for the past

couple of hours.

I'm trying not to rub it in, but it's hard not to. I know many people back home who would love to be here right now.

I know they want to just take off for a weekend and get away from all the problems that come with school, work, relationships and everything else that makes it hard to wake up every day.

Well, here's my advice — do it. Why not?

I know you will all complain about mid-terms, papers or the fact that you have to go to work.

Well, I can't help you with the work part — I mean I'm in Reno because I will be covering the 2004 Western Athletic Conference Volleyball Tournament in ... oh ... maybe two or three hours depending on when you're reading.

Again, I'm trying to rub it in, even though it is going to be great time going back-and-forth between restaurants, bars, casinos and volleyball games.

I'm actually getting paid for this because this is my job. OK, OK, OK. I'm sorry for that. I just got a little excited there.

Let's get back to the point — again.

I can't believe how many people on this campus, who are in

their late teens to earlier 20s, never allow themselves to have a little fun.

Remember, just because we are all legally adults doesn't mean that in the long run we are still young.

There just becomes a time, usually around 30, when you can't just take off for the night to somewhere like Reno or San Francisco or Las Vegas just to go to bars somewhere other than at home.

Once you reach that age you just can't sit around with a bunch of friends at 10 p.m. only to have someone say, "I'm bored, let's go to Reno."

Once you reach that age you'll have to worry about work the next day because it's your career. When you're young, do you really think the telemarketing agency you work at is really going to care if you call in sick the next day?

Maybe, maybe not, but you're young, so you shouldn't really care.

And as for class, come on. Unless you're a freak, you have missed a few classes in your college career.

We've all taken a class off here and there, and I'm sure it wasn't because you were driving back after a hot streak at the tables. Most likely you just slept in.



MARK CORNEJO

I know it's not the most honest thing to do, but there are plenty of believable excuses to give teachers and employers for missing a day.

For the most part, teachers and employers can be cold and heartless, but if you give them the right excuse, they all become pushovers.

Let the record show that it's completely wrong and irresponsible to skip out on your responsibilities like this, however, it's also completely wrong to never have any fun.

Sometimes you can do both, but here at college, the two usually butt heads.

The most important thing to remember is that when you're old, these chances are gone. No matter what you want to tell yourself, there is no way you can act like a kid when you're no longer a kid.

So, when you reach that age of no return, what will you remember? Will you remember about all the fun times you had when you were young, or will you look back and remember all of the times you acted responsibly, only wishing you would have had fun?

Mark Cornejo is the Spartan Daily sports editor. "Expletive Deleted" appears every Friday.

## Letter: Asking someone where they are from is not rude

Dear editor,

This letter is in response to Yasuyo Nagata's guest column on Wednesday ("Assuming someone's race can be a form of rudeness"). Ms. Nagata should be aware of the amount of diversity present in the United States. With people coming from so many different backgrounds there is often no way to tell where someone is from or what language they speak without asking them first.

As a crossing guard who works in a predominantly Spanish-speaking neighborhood, I can attest that body language

is a little more universal when it comes to communication. There is no reason to jump to conclusions about it. Ms. Nagata says that she would be offended if she was Japanese-American and someone asked, "Where are you from?"

I think that Ms. Nagata is misjudging the intent of people. Asking someone where they are from is not necessarily a loaded question. If someone asked me where I was from, I would say, "San Jose". The United States is a very large nation, and it is safe to say that there is very little, if any, difference in appearance between a person who was

born here and a person who is visiting.

The article complains about people being rude about making assumptions, yet all of the examples the author gives have people asking, "Where are you from?" before they make any assumptions.

Perhaps Ms. Nagata should take an example from her American hosts and be a little bit more open-minded in the future.

Jeremy Reese  
Crossing Guard  
English

## Letter: Column on the Bible did not consider New Testament

Dear Editor,

"But fools despise wisdom and discipline" (Proverbs 1:7). I am writing with regard to Jennifer McLain's Thursday editorial on the different interpretations of the Bible ("Different interpretations of the Bible are created daily"). At first, I was insulted by the misuse of scriptures from the Bible, as well as the lack of "tolerance" for people who hold morally fundamental beliefs. However, then I realized that I was reading the Spartan Daily, which continually makes a point to promote tolerance and acceptance for every lifestyle and diverse culture except the protestant, religious beliefs that this country was built on.

Regarding "being fundamentalist, a term which today is used to describe fanatics who take their religions literally," I suppose I am a fundamentalist. I do take the Bible and my faith literally.

Unlike Ms. McLain, I believe that there are fundamental, unchangeable truths in life. This may not be "progressive," but at least I can say that my faith and beliefs do not change with the passing of the seasons or according to the newest cause. God makes His will known, not in an "outdated," contradictory fashion, but in a clear and concise manner so that all may understand. Let's set the record straight.

Most of Ms. McLain's references were from the Old Testament. If she had bothered to actually read the Bible, instead of using her "Burger King" style of study, she would have seen references in Colossians 2:13-15, stating "He (Christ) forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us. ... He took it away, nailing it to the cross". So, we are not under the Old Testament, but the new. This is not contradictory, because the

coming of Jesus was foretold many times throughout the Old Testament (Isaiah 53). Now, working off of this new, and correct, premise, we can see that all of Ms. McLain's examples were outdated, but only due to her lack of understanding and because we have not been under that law for 2000 years. For example, we are not under the Ten Commandments anymore, but we still hold true to them, because most of them were restated by Christ in the New Testament.

In closing, Christians are not under the specific, somewhat extreme, commands from the Old Testament. However, we do still hold true, as commanded in the New Testament, to the underlying, unchangeable principles that were the basis of those commands.

Josh Metzler  
Graduate Student

## SPARTA GUIDE

Sparta Guide is provided free of charge to students, faculty and staff members. The deadline for entries is noon three working days before the desired publication date. Entry forms are available in the Spartan Daily office in Dwight Bentel Hall, room 209. Entries can also be e-mailed to [spartandaily@casa.sjsu.edu](mailto:spartandaily@casa.sjsu.edu) titled "Sparta Guide." Space restrictions may require editing of submissions. Entries are printed in the order in which they are received.

### TODAY

Art History Association  
Art History Day events will take place from 9 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. For more information, call Rose Smith at (831) 469-0332.

School of Art and Design  
An art exhibition featuring student galleries will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Art building. For more information, call the gallery office at 924-4330.

Catholic Campus Ministry  
Daily Mass will take place at 12:10 p.m. in the Catholic Campus Ministry Chapel. For more information, call Father Mike Carson at 938-1610.

Chinese Campus Fellowship  
A group of Christians will gather from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Almaden room in the Student Union. For more information, call Jeff Lao at (415) 812-9571.

A.S. Child Development Center  
An online silent auction will take place through

Nov. 30 at [http://www.as.sjsu.edu/childcare/silent\\_auction.jsp](http://www.as.sjsu.edu/childcare/silent_auction.jsp). Items include tickets to Disneyland, Great America and other entertainment events.

### SATURDAY

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Joint Library  
A Friends of the Library book sale will take place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Caret Plaza. For more information, call Nancy S. Freeman at 287-2529.

Indian Student Association  
"Glimpse of India" will take place at 6 p.m. in the Morris Dailey Auditorium. For more information, call Nida Khan at 239-6259.

### SUNDAY

Catholic Campus Ministry  
"Faithful Citizenship" will take place at 6 p.m. in the Catholic Campus Ministry lounge. For more information, call Father Mike Carson at 938-1610.

## THE THROWBACK

# Pills can't supplement for exercise and healthy diet

Another week, another product promising it will take the weight off and keep it off. I've seen it all before and quite frankly, I'm tired of it.

While surfing around the Web this morning, I ran into an article about the latest, greatest "magic pill," also known as Acomplia.

The article claimed that the pill helped several people lose weight and keep it off over two years without working out or extensive dieting.

Growing up, I had a weight problem myself, so I kept reading, waiting for the other shoe to drop. I didn't have to wait long.

The article continued, saying the average weight loss over the two-year span was 19 pounds. Wow, 19 whole pounds in two years. I dropped that much in five weeks back in the day.

Here's the other catch: All of the people included in the study had to drop their calorie intake by 600 calories a day. That alone should be enough to lose some weight, no pills or supplements needed.

So what benefit does taking this pill provide then? Probably nothing, but the sheer number of products advertised in newspapers or on late-night television belies the fact that there is a huge market for this kind of thing.

It seems like everyone is looking for the quick fix — all the results without any of the work. Haven't we all learned that nothing in life is that easy?

I took a nutrition class here at San Jose State University a couple semesters ago and learned a surprising thing about these products: Because many of them are considered supplements, not drugs, they don't fall under the restrictions of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Basically, they don't have to prove that their product does anything they claim it does. Most of the ads usually offset their promises with a "with regular exercise and a healthy diet" stipulation.

Guess what America? Regular exercise and a healthy diet are all anyone needs to succeed. Most people just don't want to put in the hard work required to get the job done, or they give up too early if the results don't show up immediately.

The other dangerous thing about these products, even some of the ones that can be bought at GNC, is that they can have hazardous side effects.

A few years ago, dietary supplements containing Ephedra could be bought almost anywhere without any type of warnings of them. Ephedra's supposed benefits included short-term weight loss, increased energy and enhancement of athletic performance.

The fact that it also raises blood pressure and puts stress on the heart wasn't mentioned too often until former Min-

nesota Vikings lineman Korey Stringer's death was linked to Ephedra.

The fact that so many people put supplements and chemicals in or onto their bodies is distressing. Even professional athletes have done it, or at least claimed to have.

In the infamous Sports Illustrated article where Gary Sheffield ripped on Barry Bonds concerning steroids, Sheffield admitted to using a cream on his injured leg that he didn't know was a steroid.

Read into that however you want, but a lot of people in this country are willingly putting drugs and supplements into their bodies without understanding the true effects these things can have on them.

Regardless of the safety of these products, or lack thereof, they simply are not necessary.

It may not be the most exciting answer, but eating right and regular exercise are still the best way and probably always will be.

Eating right isn't nearly as hard as it used to be. Even McDonald's offers reasonable alternatives to chicken nuggets and super-sized fries these days.

The other side of that coin is drinking right. The extra large coke is the real killer — several hundred calories without eating a damn thing.

I remember when I got started doing cardio on a regular basis. I burned a couple hundred calories, drank a Pepsi and then realized I had just drank back all the calories I had burned without even eating. That's just not right.

Working out on a regular basis is where most people come up short. There are too many easy excuses.

"I can't afford a gym membership" or "I don't have the time" are common excuses.

Make time. It's that simple. If it's that important, make time. "How bad do you want it?"

As for not being able to afford hefty gym fees, the answer is right here on campus.

The gym in the Event Center is free to all SJSU students and has cardio machines, free weights and plenty of weight machines.

Start out with a cardio program to get heart and lungs in shape then start to work in a weight routine.

The holiday season is right around the corner. Almost everybody gains a couple of pounds between Thanksgiving and New Year's.

Why wait till January to take that next step? Take it now.

Ian Ross is a Spartan Daily senior staff writer. "The Throwback" appears every other Friday.

## CREEP ON CAMPUS AIDAN CASSERLY



## SPARTAN DAILY

JENNIFER McLAIN Executive Editor  
KEN LOTICH Managing Editor  
ERIK LACAYO Opinion Editor  
MARK CORNEJO Sports Editor  
JOHN MYERS A&E Editor  
KARIN HIGGINS Photo Editor  
ELIZABETH NGUYEN Production Editor/Culture Editor  
RON PANGRAC Production Editor  
RAYCHELLE GARCIA Assistant Production Editor  
CARLY RODEN Copy Editor  
CLAIRE TAYLOR Copy Editor  
JANINE STANHOPE Online Editor  
GIANNI GUERRIERO Advertising Director  
MELISSA BOWDOIN Creative Director  
STEFANO GIRIMALDI Art Director  
NINA HURD National Director

ADVISERS | Richard Craig and Jan Shaw, News; Dennis Dunleavy, Photojournalism; Tim Burke, Production Chief; Tim Hendrick, Advertising

STAFF WRITERS | Joe Amaral; John Paul Arde; Monica Lauer; Emmanuel Lopez; Mansur Mirovalev; Yasuyo Nagata; Leah Nakasaki; Anna Molin; Stacey Ruesch; Kenneth Seli; Sara Spivey; Maria Villalobos; Ling-Mei Wong; Ruth C. Wamuyi; Amaya Wiegert; Nami Yasue; Kevin Yuen

SENIOR STAFF WRITERS | Janet Pak; Ian Ross

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS | Catherine Burmeister; Cara Bowyer; Amanda Brittingham; Ashley Bess; Shaminder Dulai; Benjamin Favela; Jason Fithian; Eliza Gutierrez; Adam Heyman; Don Hoekwater; Megan Kung; Robert Sparling; Lorry Thomas; Tomomi Tsuda; Julia Weeks

ADVERTISING | Sarah Cruz; Dana Eugenio; Brian Freia; Andrea Goakey; Michel McCammon; Canh Nguyen; Uyen Nguyen; Angela Scully; Robert Soto; Shigeyo Suzuki; Anna Santillan; Matthew Tichenor; Mancee Wong

ARTISTS | Konstantin Abadjiev, Cartoonist; Aidan Casserly, Cartoonist; Kevin Nguyen, Illustrator

THE SPARTAN DAILY | ONE WASHINGTON SQUARE | SAN JOSE, CA 95192

(408) 924-3281 | [SPARTANDAILY@CASA.SJSU.EDU](mailto:SPARTANDAILY@CASA.SJSU.EDU), [SPARTANDAILYADS@CASA.SJSU.EDU](mailto:SPARTANDAILYADS@CASA.SJSU.EDU)

NEWS ROOM 408.924.3281

FAX 408.924.3282

ADVERTISING 408.924.3270

SPARTAN DAILY (USPS#509-480) is published every school day for (full academic year) \$40 and (semester) \$25. Periodicals postage paid at San Jose. Mail subscriptions accepted on a remainder of semester basis. Spartan Daily, San Jose State University, One Washington Square, San Jose, CA 95192-0149

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Spartan Daily, San Jose State University, One Washington Square, San Jose, CA 95192-0149

OPINION PAGE POLICY | Readers are encouraged to express themselves on the Opinion page with a letter to the editor.

A letter to the editor is a response to an issue or a point of view that has appeared in the Spartan Daily.

Only letters between 200 to 400 words will be considered for publication.

Submissions become property of the Spartan Daily and may be edited for clarity, grammar, libel and length. Submissions must contain the author's name, address, phone number, signature and major.

Submissions may be placed in the Letters to the Editor box at the Spartan Daily office in Dwight Bentel Hall, Room 209, sent by fax to (408) 924-3237, e-mail at [spartandaily@casa.sjsu.edu](mailto:spartandaily@casa.sjsu.edu) or mailed to the Spartan Daily Opinion Editor, School of Journalism and Mass Communications, San Jose State University, One Washington Square, San Jose, CA 95192-0149.

Editorials are written by and are the consensus of the Spartan Daily editors, not the staff.

Published opinions and advertisements do not necessarily reflect the views of the Spartan Daily, the School of Journalism and Mass Communications or SJSU.





## At ease ...



Adam Heyman / Daily Staff

Sarah Jeffery, an alumna of the Air Force ROTC program at San Jose State University, watches as current members of the program practice parade maneuvers. Jeffery currently works in the ROTC office on campus, but is waiting to go to navigator training.

## TATTOOS | Ex-gang members get tattoos removed to get jobs, start anew

continued from page 1

pounds, but used to be 120 pounds because of his substance abuse.

"I was using PCP, alcohol, cigarettes," Diaz said. "I didn't know what would happen — what we were going to steal, what cars we were going to jack, who we were going to stab today. My life was full of surprises."

Diaz said he likes his new life working as a security guard and enjoys encouraging people by talking about his experiences.

"I went down there and spoke to them about how to change your life," he said of his talks to youth in the Juvenile Impact Program in Hollister. He has received more than 50 letters in response.

Some members of the Clean Slate program are relatively young.

Justina Gonzales, a resident of Sunnyvale, is 16 and said the program is "working." She had previously been in juvenile hall for gang-related activity and fighting.

"It's really different," she said. "Everyone's really positive ... they all want to get their tattoos removed."

Gonzales now attends high school with tattoos on the back of her neck and on her back. She said she wears her hair down and covers her back so her tattoos won't show.

"It's just ugly," she said. "People judge you."

Gonzales said she grew up around gangs and it was natural for her to join one. After serving time in institutions, she realized she wanted to get out of the gang lifestyle.

"It wasn't going to get me nowhere," she said.

After completing the program, Gon-

zales sees her life as gang-free.

"I want to find a job ... getting more respect and not being judged," she said.

Others consider the program effective as well.

"They're essentially marked for life and this is their way out," said Lisa Marquis, program director for the Volunteers and Parole program in Santa Clara.

The program is not difficult compared to prison, said Gilbert Atondo, a Sunnyvale resident.

"It's pretty easy ... beneficial," he said. "The things they ask are not hard."

Atondo is 25 years old and was a former Norteño. He said he no longer wants to be in the gang lifestyle.

Some of the gang members said they had rough childhoods that pushed them into gangs.

"I was traumatized when I was four years old," said Joanna Musquez, a resident of San Jose.

"I'm a product of the East Side."

Musquez said she was 11 years old and was involved in sports until budget cuts ended the athletics program at her school. She then started in the Norteños, getting a total of 16 tattoos.

"It's contagious," she said, referring to continually getting more tattoos.

Musquez said she wears long sleeves to cover the tattoos on her arms. However, the dots on her hands, a trademark of the Norteños, are more difficult to

conceal.

She said it was easy to stay in the Clean Slate program because she was pregnant when she started. Her baby is now 7 weeks old.

Other women said they joined the program for their children.

Adriana Espino, a resident of San Jose, said her 4-year-old daughter was the reason she joined the program.

"I don't want her to have tattoos," she said. "She has a better chance of getting a job."

Espino was not personally involved in a gang but was with a man who used to be a gang member. She said he abused her and told her she would be getting tattoos.

"He had a lot of control over me," she said.

Her family helped her get out of the relationship and got her in touch with the Clean Slate program, Espino said. She now works and is applying to schools.

"I'm the boss," she said.

Other people in the program were involved with gangs because of their families.

Lety Dominguez, a Santa Clara resident, grew up in Alviso, where her parents and grandparents were Norteños.

"It's in your blood, like race," she said.

Being a Norteña was something Dominguez "really believed in" before,

she said.

On her left ring finger is the "XIV" that represents 14, the letter "N" being the 14th letter of the alphabet for the Norteños.

Dominguez now works as a receptionist for the Center for Employment Training, where she found out about the Clean Slate program.

While Dominguez never participated in gang activities, she felt a part of the Norteños.

"It was a major identity for me and now it's a major barrier," she said.

She said she now works with children and youth, and when they see her tattoos, they judge her.

"If a Sureño kid sees my tattoo, they think, 'She's a red-ragger,'" Dominguez said. "It's embarrassing."

The color for the Norteños is red, while the color for the Sureños is blue, she said.

Dominguez is 23 years old and has a family now, she said.

"I stopped at a young age," Dominguez said. "There was a lot of negativity."

She had a good mentor in high school who helped her, she said.

"If she didn't help me, I don't know where I'd be," Dominguez said.

She left Alviso and now works in San Jose, Dominguez said. However, she is still marked by her past.

"The tattoo symbolized what I claimed," Dominguez said. "I'm erasing part of my past."

Most of the Clean Slate clients are happy to leave their past behind by removing their tattoos.

"You're not born a gang member," Diaz said. "Anyone can change themselves."

*"They're essentially marked for life and this is their way out."*

**Lisa Marquis,  
program director**

## INDIANS | Student, professors reflect on culture

continued from page 1

good cricket," Reddy said.

However, she said she became more independent after coming to America.

"U.S. culture shaped me into being more individualistic," she said.

Her parents were not entirely supportive of the relief drive because they wanted Reddy to concentrate on school, she said.

"My parents are more strict (than American parents)," Reddy said. If she wants to go out at 7 or 8 p.m., she said it's "too late."

She said that they did not understand why she was doing community service, since it is not widely practiced in India. Service for family was common, but not service for the community at large.

However, coming to the United States has taught Reddy to stand up for herself.

"You just need to step out of your parents' shadow and grow and be yourself," she said.

Reddy said she hopes to continue community service on the side.

"I try to do what I can," she said. "It's giving back to India."

After she finishes her bachelor's degree and medical school, Reddy said she wants to return to India.

"In the long run, I plan to go back to India and set up a practice," she said.

For now, Reddy contents herself with her chemistry workshop and tutoring, she said.

She did the chemistry work "since I'm so into helping people," Reddy said.

With all her classes and extracurricular activities, Reddy said her volunteer work can be stressful.

"It does take a lot out of you," Reddy said.

However, she plans to continue helping others and make a difference, she said.

"The satisfaction is so amazing," Reddy said.

## Cultural background "never played a role" for professor

Dressed in flowing saris, Manjari Ohala does not resemble many of the professors in the English and linguistics departments.

Ohala is one of the few Indian women who is a fully tenured professor on campus.

When she first came to SJSU 30 years ago, she said she did not know any other Indian women who were teaching. Her other Indian colleagues were men teaching in engineering and the sciences.

"Even now, probably among the faculty, they're (Indians) rather few," Ohala said.

Ohala was born in what is now Pakistan, before India and Pakistan separated in 1947. She grew up speaking Hindi, her native tongue, she said.

She said she became interested in linguistics when she was introduced to the literature of Sanskrit and Hindi.

In order to analyze these texts, she needed to know linguistics, which became her area of study.

"I am, by training, a linguist,"

Ohala said.

Ohala first studied in India and eventually earned a doctorate in linguistics from UCLA. She moved to the Bay Area with her husband, who works at UC Berkeley, she said.

She taught Hindi for a year at UC Berkeley, but she said she wanted to teach linguistics. She filled a part-time position at SJSU and has been here since 1974.

She said she has never felt discriminated against for her culture.

"I never played any role," Ohala said. "Linguists are very tolerant people because the subject matter that we study are different languages, different cultures. So as far as my linguistics colleagues having differences of opinion, it would not have been based on my cultural background. It would have been some issues that would have come up."

Ohala's choice of clothing was not an issue either, she said.

"I never wore skirts or blouses," Ohala said. "I have friends in corporations who must conform."

She said at first no one mentioned her clothing, but now students ask her about her attire.

"My students accept it," Ohala said. "They feel that they can be accepted for their culture."

She said she has seen more Indian and Pakistani students in the last 10 to 15 years. However, she gets about one Indian student every few semesters.

"The (Indian students) are in the hard sciences," Ohala said, which include computer science and engineering.

In her time at SJSU, Ohala said she has seen the campus become more diverse.

"I think that my students accept it," she said.

## Professor teaches Indian literature of love

A turban and full beard earn Atamjit Singh attention in airports and luggage checks.

Singh, a lecturer in Punjabi in the foreign languages department, is a Sikh, and to remove his turban is not appropriate for his culture, he said. The word "Sikh" is Punjabi for "disciple" to the Gurus. It is not a branch of Hinduism, according to the BBC Guide to World Religions.

"There's pressure to conform," Singh said.

Because of his appearance, he said he is sometimes mistaken as a Muslim, particularly after Sept. 11.

He said that some people who look Middle Eastern were killed and shot at in America, but he believes that violence is not the answer.

"The best way is not to fight back but to educate," Singh said.

Singh said he teaches his students to be tolerant by talking about his culture.

"(When I teach), it's not just teaching languages but planting the seeds of social, cultural background," he said.

When he teaches his students poetry, he says they bring their experience of the poetry to American life.

"The (Sikh) poetry is about love for the whole humanity," Singh said.

By focusing on love and acceptance, students can express their diversity, he said.

"Students play a unique role about extending education about themselves to American society," Singh said.

Singh was educated in India, earning a doctorate from the University of Delhi. His thesis was "The Topic of Love in the Literature of Punjab," he said. Singh's native tongue is Punjabi.

He said that Sikh literature describes man's love with God using metaphors such as love between husband and wife.

"The first Sikh guru made an open declaration that he was neither Muslim or Hindu, but was a man of God and had come to sing His glories," Singh said.

After writing his doctoral thesis, Singh trained in linguistics and went into teaching.

"You reach out, help students," he said. "Extend and take generosity to other people."

He said he wants his students to be more comfortable expressing themselves.

"Different minorities here in the

United States, they are like a group of flowers," Singh said. "Flowers of different blooms and colors, but all of them have their own fragrance and they have their own smells."

Singh said that being distinct is acceptable in America.

"That American dream is celebrating diversity," he said.

However, being unique can be harmonious as well, Singh said.

"It's not different, it becomes one," he said.

**Camera Cinemas**  
BUY TICKETS AT WWW.CAMERACINEMAS.COM

**Camera 12** 201 S. Second St. • 938-3300  
(Valley's Best Art Cinema (Metro Readers Poll))

**SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS MOVIE** (G) - No Passes. Meet Spongebob Sat-Sun, 6-9pm! Daily 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 (Sat/Sun only)

**NATIONAL TREASURE** (PG) - No Passes! Daily 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 (Sat/Sun only)

**BRIDGET JONES: EDGE OF REASON** (R) - No Passes. Daily 11:40, 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40

**THE POLAR EXPRESS** (PG) - Daily 12 noon, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20 (Sat/Sun only)

**THE INCREDIBLES** (PG) - Meet Mr. Incredible. Daily 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 (Sat/Sun only)

**SEED OF CHUCKY** (R) - 12 noon (Fri-Sat/Sun only). 2:40, 4:40, 6:40, 8:40, 10:40 (Fri-Sat/Sun only)

**WHAT THE H\*! DO WE KNOW?** (R) (Rated) - Daily 11:40, 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40

**RAY** (R) - Daily 12:45, 2:45, 4:45, 6:45, 8:45, 10:45

**I HEART HUCKABEE** (R) - Daily 12:15, 4:50, 9:25

**ARMY OF DARKNESS** (R) - Fri at 12 noon

**Camera 7** Pruneyard/Campbell • 559-6900  
(Valley's Best Art Theater (The Wave Readers Poll))

**LIGHTNING IN A BOTTLE** (PG-13) - Daily 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 (Sat/Sun only)

**NATIONAL TREASURE** (PG) - No Passes! Daily 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 (Sat/Sun only)

**BRIDGET JONES: EDGE OF REASON** (R) - No Passes! Daily 11:40, 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40

**INFERNAL AFFAIRS** (R) - Daily 2:30, 7:15

**SEED OF CHUCKY** (R) - 12 noon (Fri-Sat/Sun only). 2:40, 4:40, 6:40, 8:40, 10:40 (Fri-Sat/Sun only)

**WHAT THE H\*! DO WE KNOW?** (R) (Rated) - Daily 11:40, 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40

**RAY** (R) - Daily 12:45, 2:45, 4:45, 6:45, 8:45, 10:45

**I HEART HUCKABEE** (R) - Daily 12:15, 4:50, 9:25

**ARMY OF DARKNESS** (R) - Fri at 12 noon

**BRIDE OF CHUCKY** (R) - WEDNESDAY 10:30am - 6:15pm

**DIAPER DAYS** (G) - THURSDAY 10:30am - 6:15pm

WWW.CAMERACINEMAS.COM

OPENS 11/24! LINDA LUTZ: LINDA LUTZ: RINISE FINDING NEVERLAND! ALEXANDER MACHINIST

**Bartend!**  
Earn \$150 - \$300  
1 or 2 week training  
Nationwide job placement

Financing available  
www.nationalbartenders.com  
650-968-9933

National Bartender's School

**LATINOSSTEP**  
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NORTHERN REGION OF ΓΖΑ  
AT CSUS, CSUC, UDC, STANFORD, CAL BERKELEY,  
ΛΘΝ AND ΛΣΓ  
PRESENTS

**FRIDAY NOVEMBER 19**

**SOLK**

**STROLL COMPETITION**

**CLUB PALERMO**  
394 S. Second St. /San Jose, CA 95113  
Doors Open at 8:30pm, Party stars 9pm /Advance tickets \$10

more info go to info@latinosstep.com or call 888 843 5754